



Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our extended Catholic Education Family:

Fr John Rasmussen, Mackay, wonderful supporter of Catholic Education and Priest of the Diocese.

Aunty Joan Hendriks, Stradbroke Island.

Thomas Green, father of Mark Green, Marist College, Emerald and Linda Senini, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Colin Joseph Corboy, father of Rob Corboy, Principal St Brendan's College Yeppoon.

Ruth Gaviglio, mother of Karen Gaviglio, St Francis Xavier Mackay.

Peter O'Reilly, father of Julie McLaughlin, St Benedict's Yeppoon and father in law of Michael McLaughlin CEO.

Francis Burrows, mother of Meghan Tucker, St Brigid's Emerald and mother in law of Gene Tucker, Marist College Emerald.

Clarence Kneen, father of Michelle Egan, and long-term supporter of Catholic Education.

Please remember in your prayers members of our extended Catholic Education Family who are unwell:

Kristina Kujur, India, mother of Fr Marcel Kujur, parish priest and administrator North Rockhampton Parishes.

Peta Campbell mother of Evelyn Campbell, St Brigid's Emerald.

Friday 31 January 2020

Good morning everyone

Welcome to the new school year and the first *Message Stick* for 2020. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful break and some precious time with family and friends.

I am sure that in December last year when the school year concluded, none of us could have imagined the terrible bushfires that would rage across our country during the Christmas New Year period. I watched with shock and horror as we saw these bushfires cause such devastation and heartbreak to so many communities. The tragic loss of human life, the death of millions of our native animals, the destruction of so many homes and businesses and the damage done to our precious natural environment left us despairing at what was happening before our eyes. There was little we could do to stop the tragedy that was unfolding on our television screens each day apart from praying to God that these horrific fires would be contained by our courageous firefighters, that rain would fall in abundance upon our burning land and that those who had suffered so much would experience God's healing love.

It has been heart-warming to watch the generosity of people as millions of dollars have been donated to provide assistance to people and communities who have literally lost everything. As recovery efforts continue, Rockhampton Catholic Education will be looking to contribute to fundraising efforts through our offices and school communities. Please consider how your school community might participate.

I am aware that during the holiday period a number of families have lost loved ones. I offer my deepest sympathies and pray you will know God's comfort and healing during this sorrowful time. Earlier this week we learned of the passing of Aunty Joan Hendriks, one of Australia's most inspirational Aboriginal women, and a great friend and advocate for Catholic Education in Queensland. We were extremely blessed to have Aunty Joan attend the launch of Catholic Education Week in Rockhampton last July to present the Spirit of Catholic Education Award named in her honour. As a woman of integrity and deep faith, she leaves a legacy of positive and lasting change for Aboriginal people. Her wise counsel and strong presence will be deeply missed by all in Catholic Education in Queensland. Vale Aunty Joan.

I extend my congratulations and appreciation to everyone involved in the planning and preparation of the Opening School Year Masses held in various regions this past couple of weeks. They were wonderfully life-giving celebrations and a very fitting way to start our new School Year.

I would like to acknowledge our new principals Mrs Alison Wales, Principal Holy Spirit College Mackay, and Michael Roach, Principal St Anthony's North Rockhampton. Congratulations also to Acting Principals, Julie McLaughlin, St Benedict's Yeppoon and Tegan Green, St Brigid's Emerald. We also welcome Tim Collins (Principal St Benedict's Yeppoon) to the role of Assistant Director: Schools (Western Region), while Ross Jones is on leave during 2020. I sincerely thank these new Principals, Acting Principals and all, who with generosity of spirit and openness of heart have answered the call to leadership in Catholic Education.

For the third year running we start the school year with a new Kindergarten. This year we offer a warm welcome to the community at St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten in Bundaberg. Sincere thanks to Kath Byrne, Early Learning and Care Coordinator, and all involved in the preparation and coordination of the new facility and for having it ready for the new year. We also welcome our new Outside School Hours Care service at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School in Mackay. Thanks once again to Kath Byrne, Carmel Dawson (Early Learning and Care Officer), ELC team and all involved in ensuring this important service was up and running for families at the start of the year.

Continued page 2

Our 2020 Bishop's In-Service Days commence in Barcaldine on Tuesday 11 February. I thank everyone who has been involved in the preparation of these significant days on our Catholic Education calendar. Together with Bishop Michael, I look forward to joining you at the Bishop's In-Service Day in your area.

In closing, I wish you the very best for 2020 and I pray it will be a rewarding year for you. I thank you for your dedicated service to Catholic Education and I look forward to working with you to make a real difference in the lives of those who we are privileged to serve.

God bless

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 3 to Thursday 6 February, Office; Friday 7 February, The Cathedral College Opening School Year Mass.

Pictured below from left; Phillippa Johnson, Aunty Joan Hendriks, Bishop Michael and Brad Jarro.



St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten Bundaberg



This year **Safer Internet Day** will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 11 February 2020**. The theme this year is **'Together for a better internet'** and Australia's eSafety Commissioner is encouraging parents and schools to mark the day by starting conversations about online safety. They have also created some excellent resources this year to bring these messages into the classroom. There is a dedicated Resource page for schools and educators at : <https://www.esafety.gov.au/safer-internet-day/educators> which contains information sheets, signature blocks, posters, newsletter ideas, hints and tips, and conversation starters – a really great collection of resources. Download the Resource Pack at the above link for all the details, and feel free to forward this to your staff as required.

Where to Start – the school resource page linked above has the following very useful topics:

- **Register Support** – make your school a Safer Internet Day champion
- **Download Resources** – huge range of handy resources
- **Plan a celebration** – activities and brainstorming ideas
- **Teach a lesson** – videos and training resources for use in the classroom or at events
- **Share on social** – raise awareness using social media
- **Encourage parents** – schools play an important role in educating parents, carers, and the community

There are lots of ways schools can be online safety champions, not just for **Safer Internet Day**, but throughout the year.

2020 marks the 175th anniversary of the opening of the first Catholic school in Queensland. The school was run by a lay couple and housed in an old Government warehouse in Brisbane where the Myer Centre is now located. While there will be no signature event held to mark the occasion, the anniversary will be acknowledged in various ways throughout the year, including through Catholic Education Week.

Congratulations to:

Bianca Hodges, St Joseph's North Mackay and Geoff Morris on their recent marriage.

Hannah Eldridge, Marist College Emerald and Brent Wagstaff on their recent marriage.

Peter and Belinda Thurecht, St Paul's Gracemere on the safe arrival of Imogen Rose.

Jack Newton, Year 12 Emmaus College, on being awarded Livingstone Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year.

Thomas Jackson, 2019 Emmaus College Graduate on being awarded Rockhampton Regional Council Young Citizen of the Year.

Shalom College on receiving the Community Event of the Year Award for the 2019 Confraternity and QISSN Carnival.

Employment:

For details regarding positions available please visit [Careers](#)

Important dates:

5 & 6 February, Inclusive Curriculum Coordinators Meeting
10 February, Blessing and Opening St Joseph's Blackall
11 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Barcaldine
11 February, Safe Internet Day
12 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Emerald
13 February, National Apology Day
14 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Mackay
18 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Bundaberg
19 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Gladstone
21 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Rockhampton
26 February, Ash Wednesday
28 February, Indigenous Students Year 12 Commencement Mass

Pope Francis Reflection



If we lose our memory, we destroy our future. May the anniversary of the Holocaust, 75 years ago, serve as a summons to pause, be still and remember.

Congratulations to the following long serving Staff who were recognised at the Opening School Year Masses

Western Region

Connie Iddles	Marist College Emerald	30 years
Greg Pullen	Marist College Emerald	40 years
Sr Helen Archer rsj	St Joseph's Clermont	50 years

Southern Region

Paul Kellaway	Shalom College Bundaberg	20 years
Shirley Hagerty	Star of the Sea Gladstone	20 years
Louise Hanrahan	Star of the Sea Gladstone	20 years
Ann Skelhorn	St John's Gladstone	21 years
Maryanne Parton	Shalom College Bundaberg	22 years
Natalie Hamilton	St John's Gladstone	24 years
Debra Mackay	Star of the Sea Gladstone	30 years
Debra Groszmann	St Mary's Bundaberg	30 years
Denis Sheehan	Shalom College Bundaberg	40 years
Dan McMahon	Shalom College Bundaberg	40 years

Northern Region

Bianca Hodges	St Joseph's Mackay	20 years
Christine Davies	St John's Walkerston	20 years
Nathaniel Rice	St John's Walkerston	20 years
Susan Holmes	St Anne's Sarina	20 years
Andrea Comin	St Anne's Sarina	20 years
Sherilyn Douce	St Anne's Sarina	20 years
Danika Hurley	St Patrick's College Mackay	20 years
Camille Morris	Holy Spirit College Mackay	20 years
Chris Sorbello	Mercy College Mackay	20 years
Allison Blakey	MacKillop Mackay	20 years
Helen Baisden	St John's Walkerston	21 years
Helen Patroni	Mercy College Mackay	21 years
Natalie Field	Catholic Education Office	21 years
Sandra Bayliss	Mercy College Mackay	23 years
Maree Camilleri-Poots	St Francis Xavier Mackay	30 years
Jocelyn Schuh	St Brendan's Mackay	30 years
Margaret Floyd	Mercy College Mackay	30 years
Mary Oxenham	St Francis Xavier Mackay	31 years
Joanne Parker	MacKillop Mackay	31 years
Janelle Agius	St Patrick's College Mackay	31 years
Catherine Roberts	St Francis Xavier Mackay	32 years
Helen Privett	MacKillop Mackay	32 years
Russell French	St Patrick's College Mackay	32 years

Rockhampton Region

Gail Brady	St Joseph's Wandal	20 years
Julie Smith	St Anthony's	20 years
Patricia Ivers	St Anthony's	20 years
Helen Mollard	Emmaus College	20 years
Clare Lynam	Emmaus College	20 years
Jacki Osborne	Emmaus College	20 years
Jennifer Williamson	Sacred Heart Yeppoon	20 years
Lisa Buck	St Paul's Gracemere	20 years
Leann Montanari	Catholic Education Office	20 years
Gaye Murphy	The Cathedral College	20 years
Trudy Agius	Emmaus College	20 years
Simon Warren	Emmaus College	20 years
Julia-Mai Greene	St Joseph's Wandal	21 Years
Veronica Walters	The Cathedral College	22 years
Linda Eyles	Emmaus College	22 years
Gabrielle Barker	St Benedict's Yeppoon	30 years
Peter O'Shaughnessy	Emmaus College	30 years
Justin Griffin	The Cathedral College	30 years
Mary Schick	St Benedict's Yeppoon	31 years
Margaret Groves	Emmaus College	31 years
Louise O'Shaughnessy	Catholic Education Office	31 years